implemented w.e.f. 30th September, 1997. The International Development Association (IDA) is providing a credit to cover around 85% cost of the project. The State-wise allocation will be made annually based on technical assessments and other parameters.

Primarily, 100 districts (1045 PHCs) spread in the seven peninsular States included in the Project (Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Rajasthan) and 19 Towns/Cities in these States and in the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and West Bengal will be provided assistance both in kind and cash depending on the serverity of the problem. Besides, the entire country will be covered for items like Management Information system (MIS), Human Resource Development and IEC activities.

Central Assistance for Health programmes

*34. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Government had demanded adequate Central assistance to implement various programmes to provide "Health for All" by 2000 AD;

(b) whether the Government of Orissa have urged the Centre to provided additional Central assitance and also for posing the State for World Bank assistance; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE: (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) 'Health for All' is a universal goal and the State governments are primarlily responsible for meeting the preventive, promotive and curative health needs of the people from their own resoruces. However, Central assistance is given to the States for National disease control and Family Welfare programmes including immunisation, keeping in view the funding norms and targets to be achieved in respect of each programme.

(b) and (c) A revised project proposal estimated to cost about Rs. 400.00 crores received from the State Government of Orissa in Februrary, 1997 was posed to the World Bank for assistance under the State Health System Development Project. A Preparation Mission from the World Bank visited Orissa from November 9-14, 1997 and has interacted with the State Health Department of various aspects including preparation of the Project Implementation Plan (PIP), on the basis of which the project will be appraised.

Apart from this, following projects/schemes are at various stages of development/ implementation:—

(i) Schemes for providing equipment for Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Shishu Bhawan, Cuttack and for upgradation of medical equipment for District Headquarters Hospitals in Orissa have been posed for seeking Japanese assistance.

(ii) Stage-I of Phase-III Health and Family Welfare project in Keonjhar and Bhadrak districts of Orissa with assistance from Department of International Development (DFID), U.K. has been approved.

(iii) A District Sub-Project, under the World Bank assisted Reproductive and Child Health Project, for Kalahandi district of Orissa has been approved.

Pending passport applications in Andhra Pradesh

*35. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending Passport applications in Andhra Pradesh as on date;

(b) the number of Passports which were issued during 1996-97;

(c) the steps proposed to clear the backlog;

(d) whether the Regional Passport Officer has been directed to entertain suggestions to assist the public; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) to (e) The

number of passports issued and passport applications pending in Andhra Pradesh for 1996-97 is given below:

Name of the office-Passport Office, Hyderabad

Year	Passport issued	Total Pendency	Pendency over one month*
1996	1,76,649	30,156	12,265
1997 (upto 31.10.97)	1,96,710	28,331	5,496

*These figures exclude the applications which are pending for less than a month. These are awaiting processing for want of police reports.

It can be seen from the table given above, that, while the total number of Passports issued by Passport Office, Hyderabad, has gone up significantly, the number of applications pending for over one month has been brought down signficantly. Nevertheless, a number of steps have been taken to clear the backlog of passport applications in Andhra Pradesh. To decongest the existing Office at Hyderabad, a new Passport Office has been opened at Vishakhapatnam, a collection center is also proposed for Vijaywada. With the opening of the new Passport Office the processing time is expected to be reduced further, thus bringing down the pendency. Delay in receipt of police report and receipt of vague and incomplete reports is one of the main reasons for pendency. Close and regular coordination is therefore maintained with concerned police authorities for cases where backlog is accumulated due to incomplete and vague reports. In addition to this, reminders are regularly sent to applications to meet deficiencies in their passport application forms and to submit additional documents wherever required with a view to clearing backlog of this kind. Staff strength of the Passport Office in Hyderabad has also been augmented to clear pendency. The present computerisation facilities of the Passport Office, Hyderabad, are being upgraded to facilitate faster screening and processing of applications. The newly opened Passport Office in Vijaywada is also being computerised to reduce processing time.

All Passport Officers including the Passport Officer at Hyderabad have been instructed by the Ministry to meet public at designated hours on all working days, not only listen to grievances and complaints of the public, but also register any suggestions made by them. A complaint-cum-suggestion box is kept in each Passport Office.

Outbreak to Polio in Uttar Pradesh

*36. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the outbreak of Polio, which is taking an epidemic proportion in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to control the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Increased incidence of polio cases has been reported this year from 30 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) As part of National Surveillance System set up in reference to Polio Eradication Programme, independent surveillance team has been made operational for Uttar Pradesh in the current year. In places where Polio cases have been reported, immunization of surrounding population has been carried out by Government of Uttar Pradesh to control the infection. Stool samples of affected children have been tested in specialised laboratiries. Central officers and institutional teams have visited Uttar Pradesh to assist local administration. State has been advised to improve immunization coverage and to ensure prompt reporting of the cases.

Post Graduate courses by Dental Colleges in the Country

*37. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Government and Private dental colleges in the country which have been permitted to start Post-Graduate courses and/or to enhance their BDS intake w.e.f. current academic session;

(b) whether permission has not yet been accorded to some of the applicant-colleges;